

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) Composite material with a specific density in the range of 0.8 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to 1.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, comprising ~~the following components~~:
  - (a) ~~one or more grains of a non-metallic inorganic material with a specific surface area in the range of 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> to 1,000,000 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>, having a porosity in the range of 10% to 80% with~~ wherein at least 50% of the pores of which at least 50% have a pore size in the range of 0.1 μm to 1000 μm, whereby and wherein more than 50% of the grains, more than 50% have a grain size in the range of 0.1 mm to 50 mm; and
  - (b) ~~one or more plastics particles with a specific density in the range of 0.6 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to 1.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, and a specific surface area in the range of 50 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> to 1000 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>, wherein of which more than 50% of the plastics particles have a particle size in the range of 0.01 mm to 100 mm.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The composite ~~Composite~~ material according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ the non-metallic inorganic material has a specific surface area in the range of 25,000 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup> to 500,000 m<sup>2</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>.
3. (Currently Amended) The composite ~~Composite~~ material according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 or 2, wherein~~ ~~whereby~~ the weight ratio of non-metallic inorganic material to plastics particles lies in the range of 15:85 to 85:15.
4. (Currently Amended) Use of the composite material according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 3~~ as bacteria carrier material.
5. (Currently Amended) The use ~~Use~~ according to claim 4 in plants for water treatment.
6. (Currently Amended) The use ~~Use~~ according to claim 4 ~~or 5, wherein~~ ~~whereby~~ the specific density of the composite material corresponds to the specific density of the surrounding material.
7. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for manufacturing the composite material according to claim 1 ~~one or more of the claims 1 to 3, comprising the following steps~~:
  - mixing (1) ~~Mixing~~ of the non-metallic inorganic material with the plastics particles;

filling ~~(2) Filling of the mixture into a mould;~~

melting ~~(3) Melting of the surface of the plastics particles; and optionally possibly~~

pressing ~~(4) Pressing together of the melted plastics particles having a melted surface with the grains of the non-metallic inorganic material;~~

~~whereby step (4) may be carried out either simultaneously with step (3) or following step (3) melting the surface of the plastics particles.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The method Method according to claim 7, comprising adding ~~whereby before step (3),~~ a plastics powder made from a material identical to or similar to the material of the plastics particles, wherein the plastics powder is added before melting the surface of the plastics particles is added.